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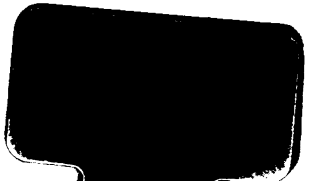

Two very lamentable Relations:

The one,

The grieuances for Religion, of those of *Stiria, Carinthia*, and *Crayne*, vnder FERDINAND *then Duke of Gratz, now* Emperour.

The other,

The now present most humble Supplication, of certayne of the States of *lower Austria, vnto the said* Emperour.

Wherein is shewed the most terrible, inhumane, *and barbarian tyrannies, committed by* the Emperours Soldiers, specially the *Cosockes* and *Wallons*, in the said Countrie.

Done out of the Dutch, and Printed.

1620.

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BODLEIAN
8.7.1899
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The grieuances for Religion of thoſe inhabiting in the Prouinces of *Stiria*, *Carinthia*, and *Cragne*; not onely in their Bodies outwardly, but alſo in their Conſciences inwardly, for the Teſtimonie of the true Goſpell; moſt cruelly perſecuted, by the enemies of the Truth, and their Commiſſaries: Vnder FERDINAND, now Emperour, then Duke of *Gratz* &c.

TO declare to the World the hourely and minutely griefe of Conſcience and grieuances for the Religion which wee haue had, were almoſt impoſſible and alſo vnneceſſary, ſince it is, alas, too well knowne to this Land, to the Empire, and to a great part of the World; yet neuertheleſſe we will rehearſe a few.

1. Firſt, by priuiledge, and good will of the illuſtrious Arch-Duke *Charles* of *Auſtria*, of famous memory, our gracious Lord and Prince, was granted to the profeſſors of the Goſpell, many ſpeciall Miniſters in principall Townes as in *Gratz*, *Indenburgk*, *Clagenfourt*, and *Labach*.

2. *Item*, their Colledges and free Schooles of learning, for inſtructing Noblemens, and others Children, were admitted and granted them, in the foreſaid Townes of *Gratz*, *Clagenfourt*, and *Labach*, all which priuiledges are moſt violently taken from them.

3. *Item*, in the Countrey of *Stiria*, were many Cathedrall and other Pariſh Churches alſo violently taken from them.

4. Alſo many priuiledged Churches, pulled downe, and blowne vp with Gunpowder.

5. One hundred Preachers and Miniſters commanded vpon paine of death to depart the prouince of *Stiria*.

6. A great many more Schoole-maſters, and Teachers of the Youth, moſt pittifully baniſhed.

7. *Item*, many Church-yards, and reſting places for the dead bodyes of the faithfull, being walled and paled about, were moſt barbarouſly pulled downe, and made leuell with the ground.

8. The bodies of the faithfull digged vp, and giuen to be deuoured by Dogs and Hogs; as alſo the Coffins taken and ſet by the high-way ſide, ſome burnt with fire; a worke both barbarous and inhumane.

9. Alſo vpon the buriall-places of the faithfull, were erected Gibets and places for execution of malefactors. Alſo vpon thoſe places where Proteſtant Churches ſtood, or where the Pulpit ſtood, or the Font-ſtone, were erected alwaies moſt filthy ſpectacles moſt vgly to behold.

10. *Item*, many thouſand of godly and religious bookes, among which were many hundred

dred Bibles, the witneſſes of Gods moſt holy Word, vtterly burnt with fire.

11. Moreouer, (a griefe aboue all griefes) many thouſands that profeſſed the Goſpell, were moſt cruelly and ſhamefully tormented and tortured, and by the ſame torments compelled ſhamefully, to denie and renounce the truth of Chriſts Euangell.

12. Compelling thoſe of the Religion to ſweare vpon their ſaluation neuer to renounce that damnable Popiſh Idolatrie, the which they were now forced to by torments.

13. The poore diſtreſſed people, were alſo compelled to their extreame coſt and charges, to vphold and maintaine a ſtrong gard of Souldiers, for thoſe cruell Commiſſaries owne obedient *mancipia* and *eùotoria*.

14. The conſtant Confeſſors and Profeſſors of Chriſts moſt holy Word and Goſpell, together with their Wiues, and innocent Babes, were moſt cruelly compelled to leaue their dwellings and habitations (whether it were in Cities, Townes, or Villages) at the pleaſure of thoſe barbarous Cõmiſſaries; and the longeſt terme of their abode was, ſix weekes and three dayes, ſometimes but eight dayes, and ſometimes they muſt be gonne before Sun-ſetting, and ſometimes in the coldeſt time of Winter, in Froſt and Snow: although it be manifeſt by the peace of Religion, granted

ted in the yeere of God 1555. (as appeares by the *Formalia*) that all Subiects or Tenants vnder Prince, or Noble-man, who were persecuted for Religion, might freely chooſe the time of their departure out of the Countrie.

15. They were not admitted time and leiſure, to make ſale of their Lands and Goods, but (as may appeare by that cruell *Edict ſpecialis*) they were conſtrained ſhamefully to ſell them, to their vnſpeakeable loſſe, yea, and ſometimes compelled to giue them; notwithſtanding, that it moſt manifeſtly appeares alſo, by the foreſaid peace of Religion, that there ſhould be no compulſion, in ſelling or giuing of Goods or Lands, excepting only, in *amore Chriſtianæ Religionis*.

And if they did ſell their Goods or Lands, they were compelled to giue the tenth Penny thereof, as by way of taxation; alledging that in Electorall Princes and States Lands of the Empire they did the like. But, as it appeares plainely by the aforeſaid peace of Religion, it is ſaid, thoſe Countries ſhall pay the tenth Penny, who formerly did doe the ſame; but theſe our Countries haue euer beene free of thoſe taxations. We omit to remember that thoſe Iewes who were iuſtly expelled not long ſince, were freely pardoned this taxation.

16. Notwithſtanding, thoſe Iewes were bound by bond, to pay the tenth Penny, at their

their departure out of the Land *per modum Compensationis*; but those poore Christian Exiles must be banished & troubled, and forced not only to quit their Countrey, Friends, alliance & acquaintance; not only debarred the fruits of their labours, but also must be bereft of that little money appointed for their maintenance, in this their wofull banishment.

17. And this was not a banishment with moderation to those deuout and most faithfull Christians and our beloued Patriots, but they were exiled vnder paine of death neuer to returne. A banishment most infamous and most lamentable, that a man must bee constrained neuer to returne to the place of his natiuitie, there, where so many yeeres he had dwelt with honor and respect; there where are the sepulchers of his dead predecessors. Although it be expresly set downe in the often spoken of peace of Religion, that it shall not be preiudiciall for any man, freely to visite his Countrie, and friends, from whom hee is banished for Religion.

18. Also the Noble-men, and others of those Prouinces being Protestants, were not exempted this infamy, but were put by their hereditary offices of State, onely because they were of the Religion; and others were placed in their offices, being men of no qualitie or merit, and only because they were of Romish

Religion. Our Proteſtant Noble-men, were alſo hindred from being Adminiſtrators, or exequutors to their friends or their children, althoug they deale neuer ſo faithfully: Which ſhewes moſt plainely, that theſe wrongs done vnto them, was not for the inſufficiencie of their perſons, births, or qualities, but only becauſe they were Proteſtants.

19. Alſo the Noble-men and Gentrie of thoſe Prouinces being Proteſtants, were moſt grieuouſly taxed and cauſed to pay great and grieuous ſummes of money, ouer & aboue the tenth penny; notwithſtanding that they had quitted their Churches, Schooles, Preachers, and Schoole-maſters: yea, euen thoſe that willingly would ſometimes goe out of the Countrey for deuotion, to heare a Sermon, or communicate, were conſtrained to pay the tenth penny, being out of his Highneſſe Countries; although it be manifeſt *de iure*, that *nemo extra territorium ſuum* can puniſh any man. All theſe iniuries are directly againſt his Highneſſe (now Emperour) owne Edict, giuen to thoſe of the Religion the laſt of Aprill, 1599.

20. Theſe great and grieuous troubles and tyrannicall vexations, which wee haue beene and are plagued withall, were not ſo much to be pitied, if there were any hope of our eaſe, or relieſe. But alas! the vnmercifull anſwer and reſolution of his Highneſſe (now Em-

Emperour) giuen to the Proteſtants the eighth of December 1609. which was plainely told thoſe of the religion, That he would neuer yeeld to their demandes, and that hee would continue in this his reſolution euen till his graue; and that before he would yeeld for any of the leaſt of their demands, concerning their Religion, he would rather aduenture the loſſe of all that euer he had of God, and with a white Staffe, goe barefooted out of all his Countries. Alſo his Highneſſe (now Emperour) did threaten mightily the Proteſtant Eſtates, vowing that he would be reuenged on them, for ſeeking any tolleration; alleadging that it was againſt his princely Authoritie.

21. To conclude, this laſt is the worſt of all, that his Highneſſe (now Emperor) will not heare his Nobility & Gentry, nor one of thoſe of the Religion, but he oftentimes cõmanded them vpon paine of their liues to keepe perpetuall ſilence: as in Anno 1598. the thirtyeth of September; the fifth of May 1599. the fifth of March 1601. and this laſt time, the eighth of December 1609. Alſo it is moſt manifeſt in that Edict, in the yeere 1599. hee abſolutely forbids vnder the paine of death, that no man of what degree or qualitie whatſoeuer, ſhould entertaine any Preacher or Miniſter of the Goſpell; vowing alſo that hee will not heare any more of their grieuances: Which is, *dura*

& acerba vox regnantis, non velle audire & ſcripta accipere, contrà quàm Vetula illa obijciebat Regi Macedonum Philippo *audientiam recuſanti : Si non vis audire, noli ergo Regnare.* The abuſes in Religion is no new thing, eſpecially of the ſpirituall ſort, but if the Spiritualitie did commit any exceſſe, or gaue any euill example, it was to be ſeene into by their temporall Princes and Lords, as we haue a fine example in the Hiſtory of *Stiria* (fol. 81,) in the yeere of God 1518. When Doctor *Luther* had gotten the vpper hand, he gaue in a long *Catalogue* of Complaints and abuſes of the Clergie to the Emperour *Maximilian*, complayning of the abuſes of their Benefices, their neglect of Gods Seruice, the inſolencies committed in their Dioceſſe, the careleſneſſe of their ſaluation, of the euill gouerning of Church liuings, and of the too many idle perſons, that were maintained to the heauie burthen of the Countrey, as ſundry ſorts of *Abbots*, *Canonicats*, *Prebendes*, *Commendats*, and many others : his Imperiall Maieſtie graciouſly did promiſe a redreſſe, giuing command to all Dukes and Lords, to ſee a reformation. But at this time there is greater cauſe of redreſſe of abuſes, ſince it is to bee plainely ſeene, that wickedneſſe hath gotten

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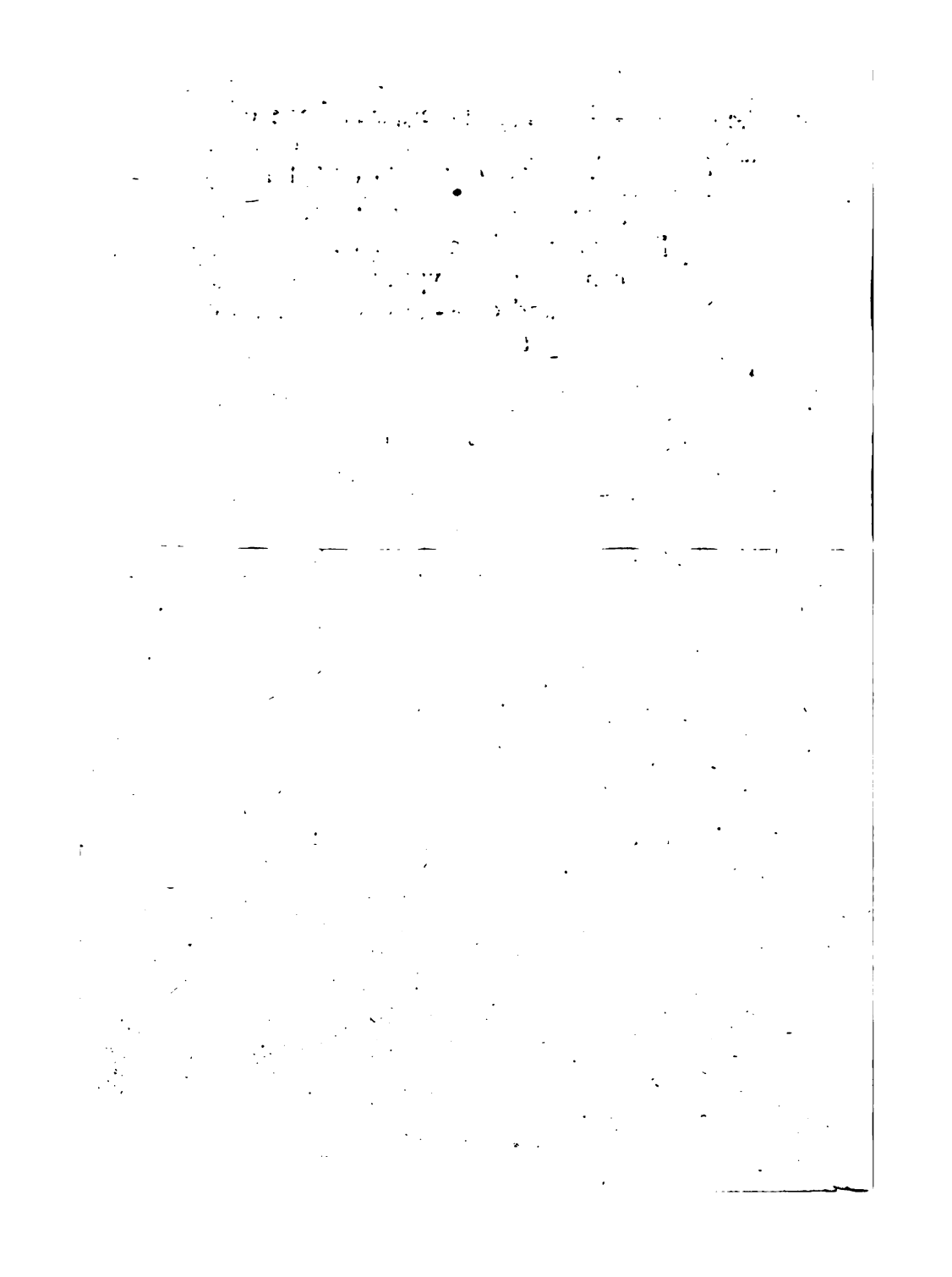
the vpper hand, and alas! there is no hope of helpe, or redreſſe.

If this Prince deales ſo hardly with his owne, much more cruelty is to be looked for at his hands, if he can haue the vpper hand of o-thers.



The moſt humble Supplication of certaine of the States of lower *Auſtria* made vnto the Emperour: Wherein is ſhewed the moſt terrible, inhumane, and barbarian tyrannyes, committed by the Emperours Souldiers, by the *Caſockes* and *Wallons* in the ſaid Countrie.

MOſt gracious Prince, the vnſpeakeable ſpoyling, deſtruction, miſerie, trouble, calamitie, and ſubiection of theſe countries, wrought and effected by the accurſed Coſackes and others your Maieſties Souldiers brought into the ſame, together with the robbings, murtherings, ſackings, burnings, maſſacrings, and other barbarian cruelties vſed and committed therein, mooueth and prouoketh vs in the name and behalfe of our principall Lords & the whole Countrey, to take and haue our recourſe, next vnto God, to your Emperiall Maieſtie, with ſighes and teares to renew our former complaints: In regard that the ſame (in the leaſt degree) are not yet redreſſed, neither hath your Imperiall Maiefty, nor you Generals granted any meſſage, nor Mandate in writing for their ſafe conducts; and to obtayne ſome reliefe therein for your poore ſubiects. For although your Maieſty hath heretofore oftentimes beene certified and aduiſed, how and in what manner the

the Countrie in generall is ſpoyled and deſtroyed, both the Gentil-men and Commons rob'd and ranſackt, ſome of the Peſants kild, and ſome of them driuen from houſe & home into the Woods, and Mountaynes; Vines and earable Lands ſpoyled and laid waſte, humanitie ſet aſide; vertue, modeſtie, honeſtie, policy, law and right hindred and neglected, and an innumerable company of ſinnes, and ſhamefull and horrible actions are daily committed, and cruelly exerciſed by the Souldiers. Your Maieſtie hauing moſt graciouſly granted and promiſed, to take ſpeedy order for the redreſſing and preuention thereof; and to that end vouchſafed your Gracious Commiſſion to the Generall of your army, for the ceaſing and ſtay of the ſame: being compelled thereunto by meere neceſſitie and force, your poore and humble Subiects are againe vnited to renew their ſaid complaints, and to let your Maieſty know, that the ſaid inſolencies are not by any meanes ceaſed, nor yet leſſened, but rather from day to day, and continually, are ſtill committed, and more and more encreaſed and wax ſtronger, yea, and in ſuch barbarian, vnchriſtian, and inhumane manner, that we are aſtoniſhed and abaſhed to thinke thereon, and in a manner haue a deteſtation to name them to certifie your Maieſty thereof. Therefore ſith the vnruly Souldiers, ſpecially the Coſackes,

ſtill

ſtil perſiſt in ſuch their ſtrange, fearefull, and deteſtable actions, and that there is no forbearance nor diſtaſte thereof in any ſort, as alſo being certified, that the ſame is to be continued and practiſed by others of your Maieſties troops. Wee, being vpon more then a ſure ground, for that we are certainely perſwaded in our conſciences, that it cannot be anſwered before God, together with the States, whoſe Officers are reſpectiuely to maintaine the Countrie, moued with no ſmall griefe and inward vexation of mind to behold the miſerable ſtate of the country-people, & being gouernours and fathers of the ſame, (as the duty of euery Gouuernor and Stateſ-man bindeth him) moſt heartily and earneſtly deſiring and wiſhing to ſee a remedie therein. Hoping that your Imperiall Maieſtie, will not in any wiſe be offended, nor take it in euill part, that in ſome ſort we make the ſame knowne vnto your Maieſty, only to the end, that your ſaid Maieſty, as a Chriſtian Potentate, and a moſt gracious Prince of the houſe of Auſtria, may the rather with all ſpeede ſeeke to remedy, and take ayde for the diuerting of theſe great, moſt enorme, and miſchieuous proceedings.

So it is, and it pleaſed your Imperiall Maieſty, that for as much, as the *Wallons*, and other ſtrange Souldiers, brought into this Country, ceaſe not continually, to make a common practiſe to waſte, ſpoyle, burne, mur-

ther, and maſſacre the Countrie and the Commons thereof, whereby there is not any fearefull, vnſpeakeable, and inhumane action whatſoeuer, which they, and other of your Maieſties ſouldiers with al cruelty, and bloud-thirſtineſſe, haue not effected, exerciſed, and committed; ſparing not to burne whole Villages, Hamlets, and Market-townes, and in them Store-houſes for the prouiſion of Widdowes and Orphans, (among the which we alſo that are Ambaſſadors, and haue a ſpeciall protection from your Maieſty for our defence againſt all oppreſſions, are not ſpared) ſeiſed vpon, ſpoyled, and burnt their Caſtles, houſes, and their prouiſion for their houſes, being taken from them; the poore ſubiects that are employed about neceſſary defences, cannot get a bit of bread to relieue themſelues withall, but are conſtrained to ſtarue and die for hunger. Boys and Women being fearefully violated & rauiſhed, are carried priſoners away, both young and old men and women, moſt cruelly and terribly martired, torterd, preſt, their fleſh pinſht, and pulled from their bodies with burning tonges, hangd vp by the necks, hands, feete, and their priuy-members; women, gentlewomen, and young wenches vnder yeeres rauiſhed till they die, women great with child, layd ſo long vpon the fire, vntill which time as that men may ſee the fruit in their bodies, and ſo both mother and child

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die together, old and young, high and low ſtates, ſpirituall and temporal perſons, without any difference, oppreſſed, and many thouſands of innocent people feareſully murthered. Some in their caſtles (and yet ſuch as haue deſerued wel at your Maieſties and the houſe of Auſtrias hands, as being old & good friends to the ſame) notwithſtanding their Letters Pattents of aſſurance and protection, (becauſe they profeſſe the Lutheran Religion) pitifully murthered. Some of them with their wiues and children being brought forth in their ſhirts and ſmocks, and wholly bereft of all reliefe, and ſuch as flie out into the fields, not ſuffred there to be free from their cruelties, but running after them, haue beene moſt pitifully ſlaine, and hewed to peeces. And many men of great account haue beene glad to take Paſports from their owne ſeruants, with many other ſuch like vnſpeakeable and inhumane inſolencies, and horrible, and cruel actions that are practiſed; which although, now (as loth to make them knowne vnto your Maieſty) we forbeare to write it as much as in conſcience we can, and wil anſwere for the ſame before God, we wil hereafter not ſpare to declare.

Therefore, ſith we know, that your Maieſty takes no pleaſure in theſe feareful and horrible exceſſes, and intolerable abuſes, & much more in reſpect of your Chriſtian charitie & Princely minde, cannot but conceiue a great diſliking thereof; and that it is to bee feared, that your Maieſty hath not yet, or may for a long time refraine from reſoluing vpon

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an anſwer to be made, & order to be taken touching theſe our obedient & humble ſupplications, and therefore the ſame wil haue no end nor be reſtrained, whereby the whole Country will bee in danger to bee laid waſte, the Lords and ſubiects of the ſame brought and reduced into extreme miſerie and affliction, to the great preiudice, not only of your Maieſty, but alſo of the whole famous and worthy houſe of Auſtria, and an vnrecouerable damage vnto the Empire. Wee moſt humbly, once againe beſeech your Maieſty, in the name of our principall States, for the mercy of God, in the bleeding wounds of our Lord and Sauiour *Ieſus Chriſt*, that you would be pleaſed, according to your naturall commendable Auſtrian, and Imperiall clemencie, to haue compaſſion vpon the neceſſitie, miſerie, and pitifull eſtates of your faithfull States, Subiects, and inhabitants, whereby your Maieſty ſhall not only bee a furtherance to your owne deſiring of peace, quietneſſe, and proſperitie, and procure your moſt gracious ſatisfaction, but alſo obtayne immortall commendation of all poſteritie. Which your faithfull and bounden ſubiects wil endeuour with all dutie and obedience to deſerue at your Maieſties gracious hands, wherewith we referre our ſelues to your moſt Princely pleaſure and diſpoſition.

The true neather Auſtrian Euangelicall
Committees and Ambaſſadours.